



1763

500.41279X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): K. Koroyasu, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/083,546

Filed: February 27, 2002

For: PLASMA PROCESSING APPARATUS, PROTECTING LAYER
THEREFOR AND INSTALLATION OF PROTECTING LAYER

Group: 1763

Examiner: P. Hassanzadeh

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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 15, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 13, 2003, Applicants respectfully elect the Group I claims (that is, claims 1, 2 and 5-9, which the Examiner alleges is drawn to apparatus) for examination on the merits in the above-identified application. This election is made without traverse.

Moreover, in response to the election-of-species requirement also set forth in this Office Action mailed August 13, 2003, Applicants respectfully elect Species 1 (that is, which the Examiner contends reads on claims 1, 2 and 5 directed to a material adhered and fixed to the outer surface of an article in the plasma processing chamber by its swelling and then shrinkage). As the required listing, Applicants note the contention by the Examiner that claims 1, 2 and 5 read on Species 1, which constitutes the necessary listing.

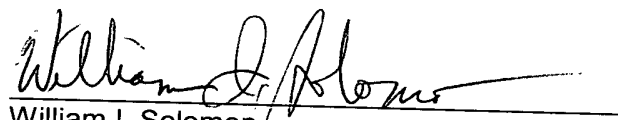
It is also noted that the Examiner indicates that claims 1 and 5 are generic to Species 1 and claim 6 is generic to Species 2. Noting, for example, claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that at least claim 2 is generic to both species set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed August 13, 2003; and that at least upon allowance of claim 2, the non-elected species should be rejoined in the above-identified application.

At the very least, examination on the merits of the Species I claims (claims 1, 2 and 5), in due course, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 500.41279X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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